

As far as orderly withdrawal of the troops, I think Congressman MURTHA, an expert if there ever was one, a man who knows the military very well, has proposed a very conservative but effective way to draw down the troops. Nobody knows better than Congressman MURTHA what is happening in that war. He goes frequently to visit the wounded at Walter Reed Hospital and at the Naval Hospital. He knows the dilemma of the men on the ground, the troops there. He knows and that is why he spoke out so forcefully about the situation in Haditha. He knows that under pressure, people will break. The best Marines and the best Army people and the best Navy people will break under pressure in a war that they think is useless.

We might have had the favor of the Iraqi people when we went in there, we might have had some flag waving and had some people that appreciated us, but we took away their electricity, we took away their water, and we took away their safety so there is a lot to be discussed and we should all value LYNN WOOLSEY for the fact that she comes frequently to discuss Iraq on this floor and does a great service for the Iraq people, as well as for the Members of this House.

HONORING HENRY HYDE

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SODREL).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished chair of the Middle East Subcommittee, Ms. Ros-Lehtinen, for putting together a Special Order this evening for one of the finest persons ever to serve in the United States Congress, our hero, HENRY HYDE.

I have been blessed during my service in Congress every day for the last 12 years because I have been able to call HENRY HYDE ‘‘Mr. Chairman’’ first on the Judiciary Committee, and then for the last 6 years on the International Relations Committee, because he has been the chairman of both those committees.

He is a leader who has won the undying respect of colleagues on both sides of the aisle. He is known to be fair and respectful. He is a man of the utmost integrity, and he wields the gavel with grace and humor. The Almanac of American Politics has called him ‘‘one of the most respected and intellectually honest members of the House.’’ Politics in America notes that ‘‘few can match him in the sheer power of his oratory or the agility of his intellect.’’

You know, if central casting in Hollywood were looking for someone to

play the role of the wise and honorable committee chairman, it would need to look no further than HENRY HYDE.

It would be impossible to talk about HENRY HYDE and not talk about the one issue that I think he has cared more about than all of the other issues that he has dealt with here as a Member of this House, and that is the pro-life issue. He has been Congress’ conscious. He has been the Nation’s conscious on this important issue. HENRY HYDE has been a leader who has never wavered on behalf of unborn babies. We have had many distinguished Members of Congress who have engaged in this discussion, this issue, this battle, but nobody has been more committed or more effective or more eloquent than HENRY HYDE.

When he leaves this Congress, he will be greatly missed, but he will leave behind a committed band of followers who have learned under his tutelage and will keep the pro-life flame burning. We owe it to those unborn babies, and we owe it to our leader, HENRY HYDE.

For the last 6 years, Chairman HYDE has headed up the International Relations Committee. And as members of the committee, we know that HENRY commands the respect of leaders throughout the world. When presidents and prime ministers and kings and sultans and emirs and chancellors and other leaders come here to Washington, they make it a point to pay a visit to Chairman HENRY HYDE because they respect him greatly and they seek his guidance and his counsel.

HENRY has also been a great friend to me personally. I cannot thank HENRY enough for all of the things that he has done for me since I first came to this institution. It has been wonderful to be his friend. But more importantly, I want to thank him on behalf of those defenseless little babies that he so tirelessly has defended during his years in Congress.

His eloquence and good sense has changed the way that Americans feel about abortion. He tells it like it is, and he has paved the way for another generation of leaders to fight this noble battle. It is a battle that I have no doubt that one day we will win.

Mr. Speaker, when the 110th Congress convenes next January, the Capitol of the United States will be a different place. For the first time in 32 years, HENRY HYDE won’t be taking the oath of office to represent the 6th District of Illinois in the United States House of Representatives. For those of us that have had the honor to serve in this Chamber, there will be a sense of loss. But I know that our friend, HENRY HYDE, will have plenty to contribute to his beloved country. A couple of years ago, HENRY told a Chicago newspaper ‘‘maybe I lost a step or two, but I don’t think God is through with me yet.’’ Let’s hope not. God bless you, HENRY

HYDE, and God bless the country that you have loved so much.

EXECUTIVE ORDER ON SYRIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleague, Mr. OWENS, in commending Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY for her consistent and strong voice in opposition to the war in Iraq. It is a voice that is needed in this Congress. She utters words and takes positions that are needed, that we need to hear in this Congress, and those positions reflect the positions of the American people and the people in her district. I have had the opportunity to actually visit her district, and I know that LYNN speaks well with respect to the issues and their position on this war.

I would like to talk about another aspect of President Bush’s Middle East policy that I think could be problematic for us if the interpretation is one along the lines of the interpretation of information that was received that led us into the war in Iraq.

What I am talking about is the April 26 national emergency that was declared by President Bush. On that day, he issued an executive order to freeze the assets of those suspected to have been involved in the October 1, 2004, assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and 22 others. On the face of it, this might look like a straightforward attempt to bring justice to the perpetrators of a heinous act of terrorism. But I decided I would not just rest with the Speaker’s announcement, the Clerk’s announcement, and that I would actually read the document. I read the document, and then I reread the document, and then I read it for a third time.

When we examine the language of the document, we have to ask ourselves are there some other motives involved in the issuance of this executive order.

The reason I say that is because of the language that is used in the executive order. It says that this executive order applies to persons involved in ‘‘any other bombing that implicates the government of Syria or its officers or agents.’’

Now the keyword is ‘‘implicate’’ because that means that you are talking about bringing into intimate or incriminating connection. Well, I remember, and I was not in this body in 2003, but the President chose to invade Iraq in 2003 because we were told that Iraq was implicated in possessing weapons of mass destruction. That Iraq was implicated in the tragic events of September 11.

We now know that both of those implications were false, but that is after nearly 2,500 young men and women

from these shores have been killed, countless thousands others have either mangled bodies or addled minds as a result of the shock and the shell shock and the presence in the theater of war.

How many tens of thousands of Iraqis are now dead as a result of the implications that the American people were told and then action taken on those implications?

Now once again, the President is implicating an Arab regime and taking action that preempts a conclusive investigation into the facts.

This administration has already made ominous utterances about the need for regime change in both Syria and Iran, and I would just ask this Congress before it relinquishes any more power, please examine the facts before we plunge ourselves into another military disaster in the Middle East.

HONORING HENRY HYDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. HARRIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the extraordinary service to the Nation of Representative HENRY HYDE of Illinois. Many of us consider our election to Congress as a blessing and an opportunity to improve the lives of our constituents and our fellow Americans, and no one has merited that honor more than this esteemed and distinguished gentleman of irrefutable conviction and compassion.

In his more than 30 years as a Member of the House of Representatives and as chairman of the Committee on International Relations, Congressman HYDE has given the most vulnerable citizens a voice and focused our minds on the modern day horrors of child slavery, famine and genocide.

It was in his freshman term that colleagues would first become aware of his passionate devotion to the defense of innocent life, all human life, and at that time, tax dollars of all Americans were devoted to funding nearly 300,000 abortions annually.

Through the appropriations process, Mr. HYDE introduced an amendment to prohibit this practice and the adoption of the Hyde amendment forever changed the course of our national discussion about life and its protections.

I have considered my service on the House International Relations Committee under Chairman HYDE's stewardship as one of the most rewarding and enlightening experiences of my time in Congress. Not content to simply fund projects or engage in academic debates about geopolitics and Real Politic, our committee has played a critical role in shepherding the foreign affairs of the Nation.

The chairman's leadership has been indispensable as our Nation entered a

new age of warfare and a time of bolder, more vibrant diplomacy.

A veteran of the committee, Chairman HYDE has been heard in the halls of Congress and countless administrations in the crucial interest about international arms control, the expansion of NATO, the investigation of the Iran-Contra affair and the long-overdue need for reform of the United Nations.

Earlier this year, Chairman HYDE eloquently addressed the challenges facing our Nation and the world, "We are well advanced into an unformed era in which new and unfamiliar enemies are gathering forces, where a phalanx of aspiring competitors must inevitably constrain and focus our options. In a world where the ratios of strength narrow, the consequences of miscalculation will become progressively more debilitating."

□ 2015

The chairman's cogent argument in favor of a robust foreign policy has fueled the committee during the 109th Congress. The committee has led the way in U.N. reform, holding to account the privileged few of the United Nations who turned a blind eye as Saddam Hussein violated international law and basic human rights.

He has called attention to the tragic human drama that began long ago and today is simply known as Darfur. And most importantly, Chairman HYDE has worked to ensure the voice of this body is heard on matters of nuclear proliferation, the untenable policies of terrorist regimes, and forged ahead where Americans will stand as the world struggles through this uninformed era.

Throughout his career, HENRY HYDE has never failed to heed his own counsel nor to lose his way. And the principles of basic rights and wrongs have guided his path forward.

His most important contribution, however, has been as a husband, father and grandfather. I am certain it is this job that he has enjoyed most.

In closing, I wish to thank Congressman HENRY HYDE for his extraordinary leadership, his friendship and his scholarship. We are truly a better people as a consequence of his service and for knowing him personally.

THE ALLEN SMALL BUSINESS PLAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FORTENBERRY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to discuss the circumstances of the small business community in Maine and across the country. Regardless of size or industry, small businesses throughout the country share a common set of challenges: sky-

rocketing health care and fuel costs, an unstable and outdated Federal tax structure, an insufficient labor supply and lack of qualified workers, a lack of access to Federal contracts and inadequate funding for entrepreneurial assistance programs for start-up businesses and businesses that want to grow.

And it is my experience here that many of the organizations in Washington that hold themselves out as small business organizations are really advocating, in reality, a big business agenda.

Back in my home State of Maine, small business is big business. Maine is home to over 140,000 small businesses, and we have nearly 100,000 Mainers who are self-employed. Our prosperity depends on the growth and the success of small business.

I have two bills, H.R. 5288, the Small Business Health Plans Act, and H.R. 5058, the Small Business Investment and Promotion Act, that would both aid small businesses by addressing many of the challenges that they face today.

Small businesses across America are struggling to maintain health care coverage for their workers. Really, most of the people I talk to every year find their premiums going up and find it very difficult to predict how much their health insurance will cost for the next year, assuming they have coverage.

My plan, under the bill H.R. 5288, makes quality health insurance more affordable and makes it easier for small businesses to obtain coverage for their employees. I believe that employees are entitled to the same coverage that Members of Congress and other Federal employees have. That is what my Small Business Health Plans bill provides.

The legislation would establish a small employer health benefits program for employers with 50 or fewer employees by creating new purchasing tools that would guarantee quality coverage at affordable rates to small businesses and their employees without preempting State requirements, much the way the coverage for Federal employees works.

One aspect of the bill would be to attract insurance companies by subsidizing the cost of catastrophic health care cases, and that would bring private insurers into this market and make the plan attractive.

Second, we would provide some premium assistance for smaller businesses and lower-wage workers.

Now, the second bill, H.R. 5058, has six different sections that cover the other difficulties that I mentioned at the beginning. First, the high cost of fuel for transportation and heat in winter is breaking the backs of small business owners, and no relief is in sight. H.R. 5058 creates a 2-year tax credit to